



Child Nutrition & Wellness, Kansas State Department of Education

Summer Food Service Program

Kansas Success Stories

Volume 3, Issue 1, February 2009

Simplified Summer Option
Streamlines Participation
USD 202 Turner

USDA offers the Seamless Summer Option to school nutrition programs operating sites with 50% or more of students eligible for reduced price or free school meals. A simplified application submitted to KSDE identifies the sites that are eligible and allows the school to serve meals free to all students who come to the site. Meals are claimed through the same system using the same reimbursement rates as during the school year.

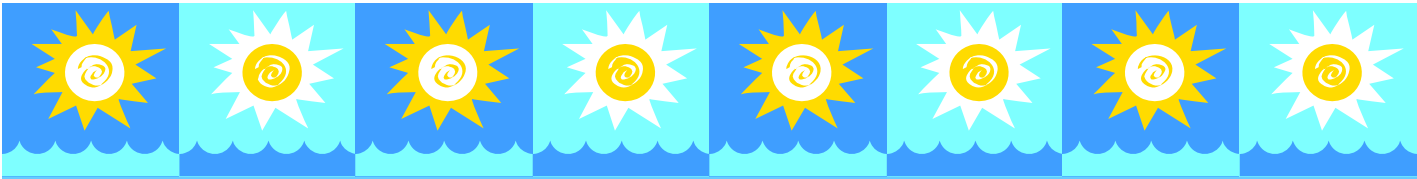
Turner USD 202 has participated in the Seamless Summer Option for several years and finds the transition from the Breakfast and National School Lunch Program to the summer program to truly be “seamless”. Not only is free breakfast and lunch available to all students enrolled in summer school programs, the cafeteria doors are open to any child in the Turner community so that they, too, may enjoy great tasting, nutrition packed meals at no cost. The adults that usually accompany the community children may enjoy a great meal at a very affordable price. The number of community members served increases some each year as a result of the district outreach, word-of-mouth advertising and increased community need. Those who come for meals are appreciative of the great deal and the great food.

Marsha Chapin, Food Service Director, states, “I certainly appreciate the option to offer a Seamless Summer Feeding Program. At the end of the regular school term, activities at the food service

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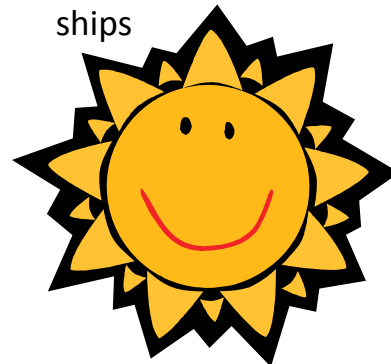
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headquarters occur at a frantic pace as regular school programs are closing out, as next year’s program plans are being concreted AND as we’re gearing up to provide a quality summer feeding program. The simplicity of participating in the Seamless Summer Feeding Program is a welcome relief at a time when one more thing to do becomes one thing too many.”



SFSP Offers Many Valuable Benefits!

- ♦ Improve your students' learning readiness
- ♦ Provide a safe place for children to interact with other kids and supportive adults
- ♦ Allow families to stretch their food dollars
- ♦ Employ staff in the summer
- ♦ Maximize use of otherwise idle buildings
- ♦ Bring money to the community
- ♦ Build community partnerships



Cooperation in Cottonwood Falls Benefits All

As a part of summer school, the Chase County Elementary School participates in the Summer Food Service Program which offers lunch to any child who comes to the school for class or recreational activities. Summer school is combined with educational enrichment and safety lessons and the class day ends with a trip to the swimming pool or other recreational opportunities.

Chase County has formed a coalition to allow a number of organizations to carry out their individual visions while assisting each other. Chase County Elementary School, Chase County Recreation Commission, Imagine Chase

County, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Flint Hills and the Chase County Sheriff's Department have combined efforts to offer "Camp United" a day camp for children in Cottonwood Falls.

This year's community project was creating storm signs – laminated cards alerting the public to storm shelters or basements in the downtown area that could be protection in case of storms. Students created and delivered their signs. "The whole point of this project was to teach the children that even if you're 5 years old you can contribute to your community," Janet Ayers said,

"Downtown, they see signs and it reinforces what they do for the community."



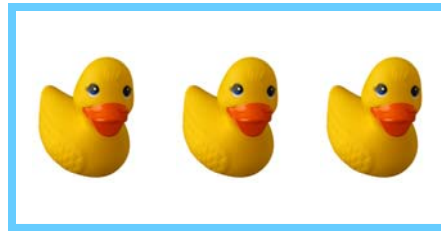
Students pose with their "storm signs". Photo provided by Brandy Nance, Emporia Gazette

Fun in the Summer School Sun USD 310 Fairfield

Fun in the sun was the theme for USD 310 Fairfield's first Summer Food Service Program. From June 9th thru July 11th the program ran in conjunction with the district's summer school. With Beach Boys music in the background, participants enjoyed their meals in a brightly decorated cafeteria. From a wading pool with lawn chairs to a patio table with beach umbrella, all sorts of summer activities were on display.



Students started their day with a self-serve breakfast. This allowed time to eat and time to socialize. Students could choose from an assortment of board games to play pool-side in the center of the cafeteria "beach".



Lunch was served cafeteria style with menus selected for customer appeal. With consistent summer school participation there was an opportunity to serve some children and adults from the community.

Serving meals to a single group with a broad range of ages was a learning experience for kitchen staff, students and adult staff. It helped staff appreciate the differences in each building in our district.



Mayor Joins Students for Summertime Monkey Business USD 501 Topeka

Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten joined students at Meadows Elementary School for some “Monkey Business” to kick off the 2008 Summer Food Service Program in USD 501 Topeka schools.

Bananas were featured as a colorful part of the menu and the decorations. Mayor Bunten enjoyed a visit with students during their meal.

Topeka schools have increased summer meal participation by expanding educational activities in their schools and the community. In addition to summer school, Indian Education programs and Outdoor Education use USD 501 facilities and are able to have access to breakfast and lunch provided through the Summer Food Service Program. Breakfast and lunch are also available to area children.

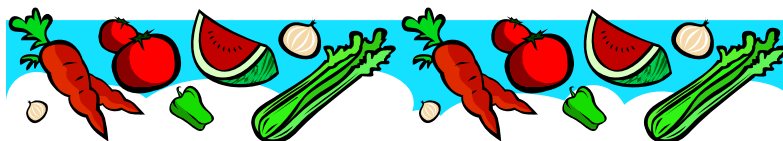
At the same time the number of students served daily is less than half the number the Meadows food service staff is used to serving during the school year. This affords a little



more opportunity to give students some individual attention and enjoy special celebrations such as Monkey Business Day.

Topeka Public Schools Nutrition Services also partners with community organizations and takes meals to sites operated by Topeka Parks and Recreation's Cool Summers program held in community centers, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Students can stop in for lunch and enjoy additional activities or eat and run on to other activities.





SFSP Gets Warm Reception USD 374 Sublette

USD 374 Sublette participated in the Summer Food Service Program for the first time in 2008. Superintendent Rex Bruce had suggested the possibility of participating for several years before it finally happened. "With half of the students eligible for reduced price or free meals during the school year, we knew there was a need," said Mr. Bruce, "but if there was not good participation it would become costly."

The program began during the three weeks of summer school and continued for an additional three weeks. Jackie Pierce, food service manager, worked carefully with menus to assure that foods could be prepared in batches as needed so there was not overproduction and waste. In the end participation was not a problem. Lunch attendance began around 50 and grew to a high of 150.

"It was a PR program for our school," said Rex Bruce. Cost issues were alleviated by the good participation and good planning. Labor was added when the need was there."

Superintendent Bruce plans on operating in 2009 as long as they can. The program will begin shortly after school ends and go until school starts.

Jackie Pierce also shared her reflections on the experience.

"At first I was a little apprehensive, as I wasn't even sure how to approach getting the word out to the community regarding the new program. I ran articles in the local newspaper and on the school's website, put fliers in businesses downtown (which contained information in both English and Spanish) and had the information posted on the marquee in front of the elementary

school. In the cafeteria, summer bulletin boards and an information table were created. These displayed the menu of the month and other nutrition information for the parents and children to look at and take. We had a weekly contest which involved a nutrition information worksheet that, when finished, could be placed in a basket for a drawing each Friday for prizes. Other items displayed were MyPyramid and the Stack-up Display Series of fats, salt, and sugar that are present in foods.

"There were many observations made this summer. One of the most outstanding to me was that the kids and parents were so polite and appreciative of the program.

"It was a very enlightening experience for me personally and I am glad we chose to take part. I am looking forward to implementing and improving our district's program this coming summer."

Child Nutrition & Wellness, KSDE

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***Kansas kids need
summer nutrition
programs because
hunger doesn't
take a vacation!***



For further information, visit www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, or contact Peggy McAdoo (785-296-2276 or pmcadoo@ksde.org) or your area's KSDE Child Nutrition Consultant.

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The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies at the Kansas Department of Education: KSDE General Counsel, 120 SE 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612, (785)296-3204.

Summer Food Service Program 2008 Stats & 2009 Per Meal Reimbursement Rates

Sponsors 77
Sites 254

Total meals served:

Breakfasts..... 220,221
Lunches 533,731
Suppers 6,678
Snacks..... 31,676

Federal reimbursement: .. \$2,048,999

Operating Costs

Breakfast \$1.65
Lunch or Supper \$2.88
Snack \$.67

+

Administrative Costs

- A. For meals served at rural or self-preparation sites:
- Breakfast \$.1650
Lunch or Supper \$.3025
Snack \$.0825
- B. For meals served at other types of sites:
- Breakfast \$.1300
Lunch or Supper \$.2500
Snack \$.0650

In addition, most sponsors qualify for 1-1/2 cents (\$.015) per meal of cash in-lieu-of commodities reimbursement.

